

Appl. No.: 10/019,992
Attorney Docket No.: 10541-929
Reply to Office Action of June 18, 2003

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are cancelled. Claims 7-12 have been amended. Claims 13-18 have been added. Accordingly, after entering this amendment, claims 7-18 remain pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,570,356, issued to Williams, et al. (Williams).

Williams discloses an apparatus for use in a processing line through which strip travels longitudinally. The apparatus functions to join the trailing end of a first strip portion to the leading end of a second strip portion along a transverse line of juncture to form a continuous strip length. The apparatus includes a trimmer for removing the weld flash from opposite faces of the strip at the line of juncture, a notcher for removing weld flash at the line of juncture at opposite side edges of the strip and including means for removing the abrupt shoulder formed at the line of juncture at at least one side edge of the strip when a relatively narrow first strip portion is welded to a relatively wide second strip portion.

Williams further discloses a die set, such that a cylinder 23 is actuated to lower an upper die set plate 31 sufficiently to effect cutting cooperation between lower knife

Appl. N. : 10/019,992
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members 33, 35 and the upper knife members 34, 36 to thus cut the strip and form a notch N and a tapered shoulder 29 (See Fig. 5 and Column 4, lines 7-13).

Further still, claims 7-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,113,733, issued to Peterson, et al. (Peterson).

Peterson discloses an adjustable angular shearing device. The device is adapted to transversely shear sheet material from a continuous strip in a punch press. The device has an upper punch which coacts with a lower die to shear sheet material passing between them. The punch comprises a pair of members which coact with a pair of corresponding members on a lower die.

In an embodiment of the present invention, a device for providing a contour in a plantiform piece is provided. For example, according to claim 7, the device includes:

"a cutting means for cutting said piece, for defining at least an apex of said contour, having a given profile P, and a side, of said contour extending from said apex, wherein said cutting means includes at least:

a first means for cutting said piece, for a simultaneous production of at least said apex, according to said profile P, and of said first side on a fraction F, of its length extending from said apex;

a second means for cutting said piece, capable of permitting the production of said first side including at least one part at least of fraction F, and wherein said first and second cutting means functioning sequentially.",
and

in new claim 13 the device includes:

"a cutting means for cutting said piece, for defining at least an apex of said contour, having a given profile P, and a side, of said contour extending from said apex, wherein said cutting means includes at least:

Appl. No.: 10/019,992
Attorney Docket No.: 10541-929
Reply to Office Action of June 18, 2003

a first curved cutting means for cutting said piece, for a simultaneous production of at least said apex, according to said profile P, and of said first side on a fraction F, of its length extending from said apex;
a second straight cutting means for cutting said piece, capable of permitting the production of said first side including at least one part at least of fraction F, and wherein said first and second cutting means functioning sequentially."

Neither Williams nor Peterson disclose a cutting means having a first means for cutting a piece, and wherein the cutting means simultaneously produces an apex and a fraction of a side extending from the apex. On the contrary, Williams discloses using at least two cutting members 33 and 35 to form an apex and a side extending therefrom (see column 4, lines 7-14). Therefore, the present invention is patentable over Williams and allowance of claims 7 and 13 is respectfully requested.

With respect to Peterson, Peterson in contrast to an embodiment of the present invention discloses a cutoff die set 12 for cutting different angles in sheet material (see column 4, lines 5-8 and column 7, lines 3-26). Again, Peterson does not disclose a cutting means having a first cutting means that simultaneously producing an apex and a portion of a side extending from the apex. Therefore, claims 7 and 13 are patentable over Peterson and allowance is respectfully requested.

Moreover, with respect to claim 13 neither Williams nor Peterson disclose the use of a first cutting means that is curved and a second cutting means that is straight where the first cutting means simultaneously cuts an apex in a contour and at least a portion of a straight side extending from the apex of the plantiform piece.

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Appl. No.: 10/019,992
Attorney Docket No.: 10541-929
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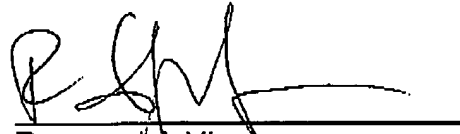
With respect to claims 8-12 and 14-18, these claims are patentable over Williams and Peterson for at least the same reasons as given in support of claims 7 and 13, respectfully, from which these claims ultimately depend.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants have calculated no fees to be presently due in connection with the filing of this Paper. However, Applicants have authorized charging of any fee deficiency to the deposit account of Applicants' assignee, Visteon Global Technologies, Inc., as indicated in the Transmittal accompanying this Statement.

Respectfully submitted by,



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